

News briefs

Memorial

A memorial service for Richard Davenport took place Thursday afternoon in the Spangdahlem Air Base Chapel. Davenport served as a civilian contractor working for the 52nd Operations Support Squadron and employed with the Metrics Systems Corporation.

The retired Air Force technical sergeant died at 10:10 p.m. July 20 as the result of injuries sustained in a vehicle accident that happened on L-46, between Herforst and Speicher. The cause of the accident is currently under investigation.

Outstanding Unit Award

By direction of the Secretary of the Air Force, the 52nd Fighter Wing was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptionally meritorious service from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2001. Anyone stationed here during that time will be authorized to wear the medal. The Military Personnel Flight will be updating the records on July 29.

White swan

White Swan Shuttle service from Spangdahlem Air Base and the Bitburg Annex to Rhein Main Air Base and Frankfurt International Airport has a priority seating arrangement.

People on permanent change of station, emergency leave or temporary duty orders have seating priority. Space-A travelers are permitted to use White Swan services on a space-available basis. Priority passengers should board at 4:50 a.m. at the Bitburg Annex lodging facility. People flying Space-A, should board at 5:20 a.m. at the Spangdahlem lodging facility. Call 452-6661 for more information.

IEE closed

The Individual Equipment Element closes Aug. 6-10 for annual inventory. All equipment pickups must be done by Aug. 2 at 3 p.m. Call Staff Sgts. Ryan Helfenstein or Andre Moore at 452-6866 or 452-6020 for details.

Trip approval

Coordinators planning off-base events or trips with more than 20 people must seek prior approval. Make requests by e-mailing the base anti-terrorism workgroup at 52fw.at@spangdahlem.af.mil.

Public speaking

The Eifel chapter of Toastmasters

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Eifel Times

Vol. 36, Issue 26

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

July 26, 2002



Tech. Sgt. Bonnie White

Passing the flag

Maj. Gen. Michael Wooley, 3rd Air Force commander, Royal Air Force, Mildenhall, England, hands the wing flag to Col. Stephen Mueller, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, during the assumption of command ceremony Monday in hangar 1.

Mueller assumes wing command with zeal for base fighter mission

By Capt. Angela Johnson
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Training, information superiority, taking care of your people and the War on Terrorism were the topics of the day as wing members welcomed a new wing commander during a time-honored assumption of command ceremony this week.

Hundreds of people gathered in Hangar 1 to watch Colonel Stephen Mueller assume command of the 52nd Fighter Wing. Major General Michael Wooley, 3rd Air Force commander, presided over the ceremony and passed the wing flag over to Mueller.

Colonel Gregory Ihde, the 52nd FW's previous commander, was not able to attend the ceremony as, according to Wooley, "He's answered his nation's call and is putting his command experience to good use as the air component coordinating element

director, Combined Task Force 180, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan."

Mueller arriving from the Joint Staff at the pentagon, where he was the chief of the Precision Engagement Assessment Division at the Directorate for Force Structure, Resources and Assessments in Washington D.C., said that he felt like he won the lottery by getting an assignment as the new wing commander at Spangdahlem.

"Let me tell you how proud and lucky I feel to be given this opportunity to work with the finest people and the best fighter wing in the AF," said Mueller.

During the ceremony, he thanked those who worked behind the scenes to put the ceremony on and all of the wing members for the

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Spang F-16 pilots answer jumbo jet distress call

Polar Air Cargo pilot requests U.S. fighter pilot help when Boeing 747 navigation gear malfunctions

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Two Spangdahlem Air Base F-16 pilots assisted a Polar Air Cargo Boeing 747 jumbo-jet to a safe landing July 10 after it experienced a significant in-flight emergency.

Capt. Gary Gabriel, the 747 pilot, reported losing all navigational instruments after takeoff from Ramstein Air Base to Frankfurt air traffic controllers. He was relying solely on a standby attitude indicator and a magnetic compass while flying in cloudy conditions.

When the Spangdahlem supervisor of flying received a request to assist the 747, two pilots were already in their jets waiting to take off. Lt. Col. Kevin Booth, 52nd Operations Support Squadron commander, and Lt. Col. Grant Bishop, 52nd Fighter Wing Inspector General flight chief, were asked if they would assist the distressed 747 carrying four crewmembers.

The pilots took off immediately, heading in

the direction of Heidelberg, about 144 kilometers east of Spangdahlem AB.

Once in the air, "the Frankfurt air traffic controller asked me something unusual - she asked how fast I could fly," Booth said. "That told me the 747 was in serious trouble."

Flying at about 500 knots (about 920 kph),

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Briefs

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International meets Saturday at 10:30 a.m. in the Spangdahlem Air Base chapel annex. People interested in improving speaking skills are encouraged to attend. Call Master Sgt. Jeff Wepner at 452-5370 for more information.

TRICARE news

Retired beneficiaries enrolled in the TRICARE for life program in Europe, Africa or the Middle East should verify their TRICARE eligibility. Defense Eligibility Enrollment reporting System information must be updated by Aug. 1. After deadline, claims will be denied until information updating is complete. Verify eligibility and update DEERS data at the 52nd Mission Personnel Flight in Spangdahlem Air Base building 131 or call customer service at 452-6553 for details.

Recent threat levels

The U.S. State Department has increased the threat level for Germany from moderate to significant. People should expect delays at the gates, plan accordingly and have their military identification, U.S. Army in Europe driver's license and vehicle registration ready. Units are encouraged to implement staggered work schedules and maximize shuttle use.

Driver's safety training

The local conditions driving course takes place each Wednesday and Friday from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in building 307. Scheduling for training is not required, but people who wish to get a U.S. Army Europe driver's license must attend this briefing prior to taking the driving test. For more information, call Helmut Rass at 452-7233.

Volunteer retirees needed

The Bitburg Annex Army and Air Force Exchange Service seeks volunteer retirees to help with the "Still Serving" sales event taking place Sept. 20-22. Veterans are encouraged sign up to share war stories and military memorabilia to show that the retired community is "still serving." Call Penny Madison, exchange manager, at 06561-95150 to register or for more information.

Medical service delays predicted

Medical Group customers may experience delays in service Monday through Wednesday due to Medical Group involvement in the 52nd Fighter Wing exercise. All sections will remain open to provide care, but will have limited services. Customers are encouraged to schedule routine needs around exercise dates.

Unaccompanied block party

The First Sergeants Council sponsors an unaccompanied personnel block party Aug. 2 starting at noon at the base pavilion.

Safety note

Bicyclists riding on base are required to wear an American National Safety Institute approved helmet in accordance with Spangdahlem Air Base Instruction 31-204.



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

Time for a change

Christopher Walters changes the oil in his Chevy Blazer at the Spangdahlem Air Base auto skills shop. The base auto skills shops offer car lifts, tools and an experienced mechanic on site for repair advice. Spangdahlem AB auto skills is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 452-6842 for details. The Bitburg Annex auto skills shop is open Wednesday through Friday from noon to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call the shop at 452-6447. Last-car call is one hour before closing daily at both facilities.

Command

Continued from Page 1

hard work they do on a daily basis. He also told the audience that he had three goals for the wing. They included training to ensure we have the proper tools to do our job, information superiority and caring and taking care of our people.

"Training is our business," said Mueller. "The job is to train the airmen in their functional specialty, so they and their unit can provide combat power on demand."

Moments earlier, Wooley commented on the great job he expected Mueller to do. "Today you are gaining a commander of equal caliber (to Col. Ihde). The Air Force has a way of finding other talented couples to step in and take the wing to new heights. In this case, it is Col. Stephen P. Mueller and his spouse.

I can assure you that Col. Mueller brings his own unique style of leadership and strength to Spangdahlem AB – he and Debora are a perfect team to carry on the tradition of excellence expected here."

Wooley challenged the 52nd FW to remember that the Global War on Terrorism is not just another mission - it is the mission.

He also recalled some of Ihde's accomplishments over the past 14 months. "Colonel Ihde led the 52nd FW through three wildly successful AEF deployments and more than 16,000 sorties both locally and in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Northern Watch and Southern Watch. For these outstanding achievements and in recognition of Col. Ihde's leadership through some extremely trying times, the Air Force selected him for Brigadier General."



Tech. Sgt. Bonnie White

Col. Stephen Mueller, a 23-year Air Force veteran, became the 22nd commander of the wing since 1972, when it was designated the 52nd Tactical Fighter Wing, later becoming the 52nd Fighter Wing.

Accidents

By John W. Keeler
52nd Security Forces Squadron Reports and Analysis

Twelve Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents in the past week, two of which were major. One ended in a fatality.

The first accident happened on B-52 in the direction of Trier-Erang.

An airman traveling in the right lane, signaled before entering the left lane. However, as the airman entered the lane, another vehicle driving up the left lane struck the left side of the airman's vehicle.

The airman's vehicle then spun out of control across two lanes before coming to a stop. Schweich Polizei responded and determined the airman failed to monitor the flow of traffic before changing lanes.

The airman's vehicle sustained a bent frame and shattered windows. The other vehicle sustained damage to the front passenger side to include a broken front grill. The airman's vehicle was towed from the scene. There were no injuries.

The second major accident happened on L-46, between Speicher and Herforst, resulting in a fatality. The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

The 10 minor accidents involved:

- Three from backing.
- Six from inattentive driving.
- One animal strike.

In addition, nine citations were issued.

Emergency

Continued from Page 1

the Air Force jets made visual contact with the jumbo-jet within 10 minutes. Booth positioned his F-16 alongside the freighter's left wing and Bishop trailed from behind, tracking on radar.

At this point, Booth wasn't aware of the true nature of the emergency. Frankfurt controllers had only told him the pilot was having "avionics problems." Once alongside the 747, the Polar Air Cargo pilot informed him of the total loss of navigation instruments. While discussing what to do, the atypical formation flew into dense clouds.

"When that happened, you could hear in his voice that his stress level increased dramatically," Booth said. "On a normal day, pilots rely heavily on the horizon to maintain situational awareness, such as attitude and pitch while flying. If you can see the horizon, then you know if you are wings level or you're banking or descending."

But Gabriel was balancing a 70-meter long jumbo-jet loaded with cargo through thick clouds with no sign of the horizon. Additionally, the jet's anti-collision warning system continually sounded, adding to his stress by distracting him as the F-16 flew alongside. Gabriel had to ask Booth to pull away.

"As soon as he told me his (collision avoidance system) problem, it was clear I was adding to the problem, so I left," Booth said.

Booth broke away to find clearer skies as the 747 continued flying north through the clouds.

Gabriel asked Frankfurt air traffic control for directions out of the clouds, but couldn't understand the operator's German accent.

Booth returned after locating clearer weather to the west and gave Gabriel a direction to fly to get to clear air. He also asked Gabriel how he could best help him.



Lt. Col. Kevin Booth, 52nd Operations Support Squadron commander, gives a thumbs up as he prepares to taxi down the runway for take off July 15.

Gabriel said he needed to get out of the clouds and wanted to follow Booth to a visually clear, preferably military airfield.

After consideration, Booth and Gabriel decided to fly under the cloud cover to Ramstein Air Base. The 747 would follow Booth to Ramstein flying about two miles behind the F-16 at 250 knots (about 460 kph). Bishop would fly ahead and hold over the base to provide radio support.

Booth and Gabriel then searched for a break in the clouds.

They found one just south of Mannheim, flew through the gray mist and came out above the Rhein River Valley. The clouds leveled out at about 2,000 feet above the ground.

"The problem is, as you go from the Rhein River toward Ramstein, there's a geographical shelf" Booth explained. "Essentially, the valley floor rose up to meet the clouds. I could see there wasn't much space — not enough to fly between the ridge and the clouds.

However, as I looked west, there was a low spot in the ridge just beyond the town of Neustadt an der Weinstrasse."

Booth told Gabriel of the plan to fly through the low spot and the formation successfully flew through the gap at about 500 feet above ground level.

"We went right over the top of this town and flew in low," Booth recalled. "The town of Neustadt an der Weinstrasse got a very close up look of a big 747 and an F-16, but I'm sure I was nothing compared to this great big jet just behind me."

As they were flying, the 747 drifted back a little and lost sight of the F-16, which is only about one-fifth the size of the jumbo-jet, as they flew through the clouds on the valley shelf.

"I think it was because we made a turn and his concentration was on flying so low to the ground," Booth said.

Booth relied on radio communications and

visual cues to help Gabriel find his position.

"I talked his eyes back on me referencing a tower that was out there, rocked my wings and weaved across his nose a couple of times until he picked me up again," Booth said.

Once Gabriel could see the brightened runway lights at Ramstein AB, Booth moved ahead to guide the cargo jet to a safe landing.

Low on fuel, Booth then returned to Spangdahlem AB to rejoin Bishop to complete their original training mission.

Investigations revealed that rainwater had spilled off of cargo pallets loaded in the 747 that morning and flooded the avionics bay upon take off. This caused the aircraft inertial navigational systems to short-out.

Despite the challenges Booth faced in trying to help Gabriel to a safe landing, wing officials said they felt confident with Booth's ability to stay cool under pressure.

"The supervisor of flying made an excellent choice in selecting Lt. Col. Booth to handle this delicate mission since we're not usually asked to escort large aircraft down through the weather," said Col. H.D. Polombo, 52nd Operations Group commander. "Booth's judgment and decision making were perfect in each phase of the recovery operation and the 747 crew was right in thanking him for his superior airmanship. I'm proud of the way Team Eifel responded to this dangerous situation."

Although Booth, who has 18-years of fighter pilot experience, had never flown a jumbo-jet, he had experienced a similar in-flight emergency about a year and a half ago at Spangdahlem AB. A fellow pilot had to fly alongside his wing, guiding his F-16 in for a safe landing, he said.

"I understand completely, what it's like to fly off of backup instruments," Booth said. "I don't understand what it's like flying a big airplane. I imagine it's considerably more difficult."

Don't let bad burgers spoil summer fun

Exposing perishables to warm weather invites bacteria growth, foodborne illness

By Capt. John Hatfield
52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Summer in the Eifel region is perfect for barbecues and picnics, but don't let bad food spoil a good time. The following food safety tips may help prevent foodborne illnesses, whether the cook is using a grill or the stovetop.

Keeping cold foods cold and hot foods hot is the basis of food safety. Safety checks should start at the grocery store and end when putting away the leftovers.

At the grocery store, buy cold foods such as meat and poultry last to minimize cart time. These are considered potentially hazardous foods because they're perishable and have the potential to grow harmful bacteria.

Take groceries home immediately after leaving the market. Shoppers traveling more than 30 minutes in summer heat should transport perishable foods in a cooler with ice. Harmful bacteria multiply at a much greater rate in a warm environment.

About a day before the cookout, completely defrost meat and poultry in the refrigerator so that the foods cook evenly. Cooks who plan to partially cook food in the microwave to reduce grilling time, should "zap" the meat just before putting it on the grill.

When traveling to a picnic area, keep the food in an insulated cooler that contains enough ice to keep perishables below 41 degrees Fahrenheit or 5 degrees Celsius.

Also, store beverages in a separate cooler from the perishables to prevent using contaminated ice in drinks.

When barbecuing, cook meat thoroughly. Meat thermometers provide the most accurate reading for internal temperatures. Steaks and roasts should be cooked to 145 degrees Fahrenheit or 63 degrees Celsius. Pork and ground beef should reach 155 degrees Fahrenheit or 68 degrees Celsius. Poultry should reach 165 degrees Fahrenheit or 74 degrees Celsius.

If a thermometer is unavailable, hamburgers should be cooked medium-well to well-done and appear brown in the middle. Poultry should have no pink areas.

Proper food handling is paramount, whether at home or outdoors. Follow these tips to prevent food contamination:

■ Clean all work surfaces and utensils before preparing food.

■ Don't use the same cutting board, platter or utensils for raw meat as for fresh or cooked foods, including vegetables. Bacteria in raw meat or juices can contaminate other foods.

■ When only one cutting board is available, thoroughly wash and sanitize it between uses. A simple, inexpensive solution for sanitizing food preparation surfaces is one adding one tablespoon of household bleach to a gallon of water.

■ Wash all fresh fruits and vegetables.

■ Wash hands frequently. Have water,



File photo by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Drake

When a thermometer is unavailable, test meat for doneness by cutting into it. The juices should run clear.

soap and paper towels available for handwashing outdoors.

■ Serve food immediately after cooking.

■ Don't let food sit out for more than one hour or more than 30 minutes in hot weather.

■ Refrigerate leftovers promptly in shallow containers. Leftovers that have been off the grill for less than an hour can be taken home safely in a cooler filled with ice.

■ Drain ice chest water regularly.

Finally, remember that contaminated foods don't always look or smell bad. It's good to be conservative when dealing with perishables. When in doubt, throw it out.

People who have eaten contaminated food commonly suffer from a mildly upset stomach to severe cramps, vomiting, diarrhea, chills and fever.

People can find out more about foodborne illness or food safety by calling the public health office at 452-8308.

At Your SERVICE

SPANGDAHLEM

Chapel

► Catholic Mass: 11:45 a.m. Wednesday-Friday; 5 p.m. Saturday; and 9:15 a.m. Sunday

► Jewish service each second and fourth Friday at 7 p.m.

► Catholic religious education, 11 a.m. Sunday

► Protestant Sunday worship: 11:15 a.m.

► Protestant Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.

► Korean worship, 1 p.m. Sunday

Commissary

► Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

► Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

► Saturday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

► Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Main exchange

► Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

► Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Child development center

► Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

BXtra (shoppette)

► Monday-Sunday, 8 a.m.-midnight

Gas station

► Monday-Saturday, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

► Sunday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Outdoor recreation

► Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

► Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Airmen's Attic

► Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bowling center

► Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

► Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-midnight

► Sunday, noon-9 p.m.

BITBURG ANNEX

Chapel

► Catholic Mass: 9:15 a.m. Tuesday and 11:30 a.m. Sunday

► Catholic religious education: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

► Confessions, 10:45 a.m. Sunday

► Protestant Sunday worship: 8:15 a.m. liturgical; 9:35 a.m. contemporary; and 1 p.m. Gospel

► Protestant Sunday school: 11:30 a.m.

Child development center

► Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Commissary

► Monday, closed

► Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

► Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

► Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Shoppette

► Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Furniture store

► Open daily, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Main exchange

► Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Gas station

► Monday-Saturday, 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

► Sunday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Car care center

► Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

► Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

► Sunday, closed

Airmen's Attic

► Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Oberweiss Annex

Pet spa

► Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.



Community Mailbox

Crafters meeting

Local crafters and artisans are encouraged to attend a Craft Corner meeting Aug. 2 from noon to 3 p.m. in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. Children are welcome. Call 06565-958753 for details.

Animal vaccinations

The veterinary clinic walk-in shot clinic has been rescheduled to Aug. 15 from 3-6 p.m. in front of the base community activity center. Call 452-452-9388 for more information.

Education center news

The 52nd Mission Support Squadron education center is located in Spangdahlem Air Base building 192. Call 452-6063 for more information.

■ The cut off date for the fall Community College of the Air Force graduation is Aug. 30. Members close to completing CCAF degree requirements should visit an education center counselor.

■ The University of Oklahoma offers intensive-format master's degree courses. Call Al Cannon at 452-7555 or visit the office in Spangdahlem AB building 131, Room 304 for more information.

Education fair

The base education center sponsored education fair takes place Aug. 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Saber Club. Representatives from various on-base college branches will be present to speak about course enrollment. Each school will also hold drawings for prizes. Call the education center at 452-6335 or 452-6063 for details.

Spiritual retreat

The Military Council of Catholic Women in Europe spiritual retreat takes place Oct. 6-11 in Willingen, Germany. The theme is, "The Spirituality of Imperfection." The \$250 registration and event fees include conference materials and speaker sessions. An initial payment of \$50 is due Sept. 1. The remaining \$200 is due Sept. 15. Pick up forms and make payments at the Spangdahlem Air Base Chapel. Call 452-6711 or 452-6281 for more information.

Girl scout camping

"Girl Scouts Sampler" twilight camp takes place August 14-16 from 5-8 p.m. on Spangdahlem Air Base. Early



Staff Sgt. Kimberly Drake

Brad Tauch, GTSI Corporation account executive, shows Tech. Sgt. Ken Velez, 52nd Communications Squadron, a new tough-book laptop at the Spangdahlem Air Base Technology Expo July 19. More than 30 exhibitors demonstrated the latest technology in encryption products, internet and network infrastructure solutions and more at the annual event.

registration takes place Aug. 13. The event is open for girls entering kindergarten through grade 12. Cost is \$10 for registered scouts and \$17 for non-scouting members. Activities include sports, science projects, arts and cooking. Call Kannetha Clem at 06575-903627 or via email at Kannetha_Clem@hotmail.com to register. Camp coordinators also seek volunteers to help with activities. Call Karen Topolosky at 06561-947769 for details.

Youth volunteers needed

The American Red Cross seeks youth volunteers for the summer. Students in grades eight through 12 are encouraged to volunteer at various on-base agencies. Some locations have minimum age requirements. Call the American Red Cross at 452-9440 for more information.

School news

■ New students needing transportation to school must

register for bus passes at the student transportation office. Sponsors should bring a copy of the school registration form. The office is located in Spangdahlem Elementary School complex building 459. The office is open 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 452-5340 or 452-5352 for details.

■ Parents who haven't registered students for the new school year should visit the school office to complete the necessary documents.

For more information about the upcoming school year, call Spangdahlem Elementary School at 452-6881, Spangdahlem Middle School at 452-7205, Bitburg Elementary School at 452-9215, Bitburg Middle School at 452-9310 or Bitburg High School at 452-9337.

Family support news

The family support center offers the following classes in Spangdahlem Air Base building 307. Call 452-6894 for more information.

■ Pre-separation consultation, Monday and Aug. 5 from 9-10:30 a.m.

■ Sponsor training, Thursday from 3-4:30 p.m.

■ Federal job search, Aug. 6 from 9-11 a.m.

■ Money management, Aug. 13 from 6-8 p.m.

■ German bills made easy, Aug. 8 from 8-9 a.m.

The family support center offers the following classes on Bitburg Annex building 2001. Call 452-9424 for more information.

■ Cooking Mexican food, Aug. 5 from 6-8 p.m.

■ Spouses orientation, Aug. 9 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Helping hands

The Helping Hands support group for parents of special needs children meets Aug. 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the base youth center, building 427. Childcare and dinner is provided. Call Capt. Michelle Ambrose at 452-8238 or Myra Rock at 452-7545 for details.

Life skills news

The 52nd Medical Operations Squadron Life Skills Support Flight offers the following classes and support groups in Bitburg Annex building 67.

■ Infant massage, Aug. 12 from 1-3 p.m. Call Sharon Gilmore at 452-3130 to register.

■ The art of relationships, each Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call Michele Linnen at 452-3130 to register.

The following classes take place in Spangdahlem Air Base building 161.

■ Mastering anxiety and stress, each Wednesday from 1:30-3 p.m. Call Capt. Glen Fisher at 452-8285 to register.

■ Two-session parenting class on conflict resolution and problem solving, each Tuesday 1-3 p.m. Call Lynn Jackson at 452-8279 to register.

Editorial Staff

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Capt. Angela Johnson.....Chief, Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero.....Internal Information
Staff Sgt. Cindy York.....Editor

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Contents of the *Eifel Times* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office.

People may submit articles for publication in the *Eifel Times* to the public affairs office, building 23. **Deadline for submission is 10 days prior to desired publication date** and noon Mondays for weekend sports. Submission of articles by deadline does not guarantee publication. All articles are considered for publication. Time and space constraints, as well as style, dictate article allocation. The *Eifel Times* staff edits all articles prior to publication.

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Col. Stephen Mueller

Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to get answers to questions you still have after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will be published in the *Eifel Times* and may be edited or paraphrased for brevity or clarity. Submit your Direct Line via:

■ DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil

■ Mailed to 52nd FW/PA, Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE 09126

■ To public affairs in building 23.

■ Concerns may also be sent via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are accepted. To receive a personal response you must include your name and phone number. Call the *Eifel Times* at 452-5244 for more information.

Viewpoint

July 26, 2002

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From the top

'Lets Roll' exemplifies wing principles

By Col. Stephen Mueller
52nd Fighter Wing commander

It truly is amazing to me how two small words can be so inspiring and yet carry hidden secrets to success.

"Let's Roll," the last words heard on United Airlines Flight 93, that fateful flight over Pennsylvania, have become a rally call for most Americans, but they are also symbolic of so much more. These words bring with them some principles that guarantee success: teamwork, service before self and the critical role each individual plays in mission accomplishment.

As a brand new member of the best wing in the Air Force, I have instantly witnessed these same principles at work here at Spangdahlem Air Base. I see great teamwork everywhere I look and everywhere I visit.

I saw it on the ball fields as our Ammo softball teams continually crushed the softball. I saw it in the 52nd Mission Support Squadron base in-processing. I saw it in the

First Term Airman's Center. I saw it as the wing prepared for the assumption of command ceremony. I simply see it everywhere I look.

You also don't have to look very far to see the "service before self" attitude that prevails throughout this great wing. It has been demonstrated at the very top, with Col. Greg Ihde moving to Afghanistan while his loved ones travel to the opposite side of the globe. You also see the sacrifices our deployed folks and their families make on a regular basis, like the 23rd Fighter Squadron supporting the recent Air Expeditionary Force deployment in Turkey. Or in the case of our two unfortunate accidents, where Capt. Luke Johnson and Robert Lopez lost their lives training for combat. The bottom line is you are all making sacrifices and our nation is thankful for your dedication.

On Flight 93, we saw how one individual made a drastic difference in the outcome of Sept. 11. Once again, the same is true here at Spangdahlem AB. We cannot

accomplish the mission without the great work of every member of Team Eifel. It doesn't matter if you're Airman Timothy Pope working on an A-10 late at night on the flightline, or Tech. Sgt. Robert Brown in the history office, we can't succeed without you!

These traits are just a few of the characteristics that allowed you to be successful in a very busy time in the 52nd Fighter Wing's history. But, as you all know, this wing will stay busy. The Global War on Terrorism will tax our resources and stress us like all combat situations have done throughout the ages, but our teamwork and attitude will insure we prevail. I intend to do everything possible to insure we stay focused on this extremely demanding mission and have established three goals to help us stay focused.

Training is our business, so it's appropriate that our first goal is to train airmen in their functional specialty so that they and their unit can provide combat power on demand. Your leadership is

committed to getting you the tools to do the job and the prioritization to keep it at the top of the list.

Our second goal is to win back our time by winning the information superiority battle. In this area, we have to learn what information is critical, we have to learn who should get the information, and we have to learn how to pass the information.

Our third goal is taking care of our great people. In a busy environment with high mission demands, like the one you live in every day, we occasionally lose track of how we retain our great people. Your leadership is committed to proving we care about our people.

I will be asking for your help and your teamwork as we tackle these goals and fight the Global War on Terrorism.

Thank you for the tremendous welcome, I am extremely proud to be a member of such a great wing ... Let's Roll!

Professionalism

Glory often comes wrapped in daily grind

By Col. H.D. Polumbo Jr.
52nd Operations Group commander

If you get a chance to observe photographs from recent Air Force deployments, take an extra minute and view them closely.

I recently saw a slide show of the joint support operation in Afghanistan and paused a second longer on the slide with the C-5 filled with rows of flag draped coffins.

It's a distant realization that our folks are engaged all over the world in very dangerous places. Just the same, the photo of the coffins wasn't the most memorable, but rather shots of the "unexciting" moments — guys bedded down in sand, polishing boots, cleaning weapons and eating Meals Ready-to-Eat. It occurred to me that there are five seconds of glory for every five hours of daily grind.

We're very busy here at Spangdahlem Air Base and so it's easy to lose focus in the daily minutia. However, we can't allow ourselves to lose sight of what really matters.

First, we cannot lose sight of the mission. Not so much the 52nd Fighter Wing's mission, but our mission as airmen and Americans. Why did we enlist? Why did we pursue a commission?

Our personal motives drive us to do the mission. We follow orders, but our submission

isn't driven by fear, but rather, our motives are a belief and understanding in why we do what we do as a force. Those in uniform who don't possess those motives often struggle to maintain the "Service Before Self" core competency, which is crucial to our success.

Second, we have to keep safety in mind. There will always be accidents; they are inevitable. The serious-side of safety comes when a mishap was avoidable.

It's unacceptable to lose lives, risk lives, or destroy equipment simply due to ineffective risk management. It's unacceptable to risk your own or someone else's life by driving under the influence of alcohol. Safety is often about personal honesty. Be honest, be responsible and don't do it.

Third, it's imperative we take care of our people. Whether that means going the extra mile to ensure someone gets a leave number, issuing a day pass for exceptionally good work, ensuring time off for career development studies or any other way we can provide for our people's needs.

With our demanding mission, we need to remember we are still human and there should always be time for a friendly hello in the morning or an office visit.

In addition to the workplace, we must remember our families. When we get so involved with accomplishing our mission, our spouse and family sometimes inadvertently slide down the list of priorities. Make a conscientious choice to maintain these relationships, and it will improve all areas of your life.

For those of you who are single, have fun, but be mindful of the friends you choose. It's common to become like the people you spend time with.

In the military, we don't make lots of money, especially for the number of hours we work. Our jobs are, as a whole, much more stressful to our families than a civilian sector job would be. So why do we do these jobs and keep coming back to the Air Force? It's probably because we all have a deep sense of patriotism and a need to serve our country, especially in this very difficult time of the war on terrorism.

It's an awesome thing to load on to a C-5 to deploy in support of a no-fly zone, or to ensure someone's records are complete before they meet a promotion board. We can continue to serve our country and thrive at work so long as we don't lose sight of what's important as airman in the finest Air Force in the world.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless indicated. More synopsis information is available at www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp.

Bitburg Castle**Today***Bad Company (PG-13)*

Starring Anthony Hopkins and Chris Rock. Gaylord Oakes is a veteran CIA agent who must transform sarcastic, street-wise punk Jake Hayes into a sophisticated and savvy spy to impersonate his murdered identical twin brother. He only has nine days to accomplish this "mission: improbable" before having to negotiate a sensitive nuclear weapons deal. (Language, violence.)

Saturday*Bad Company***Sunday***Sorority Boys (R)*

Starring Barry Watson and Harland Williams. Strapped for cash, Dave, Adam and Doofier find themselves drawn to one last desperate hope for free housing — one of their campus' sororities, Delta Omicron Gamma (or DOG). To become a DOG, the boys have to first become one of the girls. (Sexual content, nudity, language and drug use.)

Closed Monday and Tuesday**Wednesday***Deuces Wild (R)*

Starring Stephen Dorff and Brad Renfro. Leon and Bobby are brothers who are determined to maintain their way of life. They are "The Deuces." Loyalty means everything and protecting family is their priority. (Violence, language, drug content and sexuality.)

Thursday*Bad Company***Spangdahlem Skyline****Today***Big Trouble (PG-13)*

Starring Tim Allen and Zooey Deschanel. A mysterious suitcase found in the city of Miami brings together and changes the lives of a divorced dad, an unhappy housewife, two hit men, a pair of street thugs, two love-struck teens, two FBI men and a psychedelic toad. (Language, crude humor, sexual material.)

Windtalkers (R, 10 p.m.)

Starring Nicolas Cage and Adam Beach. During WWII, the Navajo language was used for decoding top-secret messages because it was a code that the Japanese did not have the resources to break. The military was aware of the danger to the Navajo soldiers, so they assigned a Marine to each as a bodyguard. (Violence and language.)

Saturday*Scooby-Doo (PG, 4 p.m.)*

Starring Matthew Lillard and Freddie Prinze Jr. The Mystery Inc., gang meddle their way into a bona-fide mystery that leads them into murky and possibly supernatural waters. (Crude humor, language and action.)

*Windtalkers**Frailty (R, 10 p.m.)*

A once-idyllic father and his two young sons are tested when the father announces he has been visited by an angel who assigns him a mission to destroy demons posing as ordinary men and women. (Violence and language.)

Sunday*Scooby-Doo (4 p.m.)**Big Trouble***Monday***Scooby-Doo***Tuesday***Windtalkers***Closed Wednesday and Thursday**

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 452-9441.

Customer refund rights prevent good deals from becoming duds

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Buying new summer clothes, a TV, the latest CD or a new car can be fun. However, it can also turn into a nightmare, when the items purchased begin to fray, burn out, are scratched or turn out to be a lemon.

Although "duds" sometimes make it off the production line, customers don't have to settle for less than what they paid for, even in Europe.

Germany has a whole series of legal regulations to protect customers. According to German law, the merchant, not the manufacturer, is responsible for faults or damage to new goods.

Therefore, customers have three options when it comes to defective products.

First, customers can return defective goods and request their money back in full. Some merchants may offer customers vouchers to be used for subsequent purchases in the store. The customer doesn't have to accept a voucher and may request a cash refund instead.

Pay close attention to store refund policies. Some items have to be returned and complaints must be submitted within a certain time. The time limit is usually between three and eight days after the purchase and the customer must present the receipt.

Second, customers may choose to keep the defective product and request a price reduction. This is an attractive alternative for products with external defects, such as scratches. To request a price reduction, show the damaged item to the merchant and present the receipt. In this case, the customer doesn't have much influence on the reduction amount the merchant is willing to agree upon.



Iris Reiff

Local shoppers look for deals during a store sale. When shopping from bargain bins, customers should check items for defects before purchasing because reduced items are usually not returnable.

It's usually a matter of negotiation.

Third, it's possible to exchange the product for an identical, undamaged item. In the past, merchants used to try to get around product responsibilities with general conditions of sale in small print on the backside of sales agreements. Today, however, with modern consumer protection legislation, such practices are generally no longer possible and such clauses are often invalid. There is one exception — merchants reserve the right to repair products found defective by the customer. Merchants often insist upon this right.

There is nothing the customer can do to refute this right if the merchant notified the customer of the general conditions of sale. Although the customer is obliged to agree to repairs, in such cases, he doesn't have to pay to have them done.

Products sold in Germany usually

come with a warranty and it's advisable for customers to inquire on warranty rights before making a purchase. Warranties can vary from three-months of coverage up to one year.

Charging customers for repairs on products sold with defects is illegal. For example, shipping costs are the merchant's responsibility if the product has to be returned to the manufacturer.

In some cases, while waiting for repairs to be completed, customers have the right to a temporary replacement. For instance, a merchant may provide a television on loan while the TV purchased is being repaired.

If the product is still defective after being sent for repairs, customers are then faced requesting a price reduction or item exchange.

Keep in mind, conditions differ for audio or electrical equipment. Customers should ask about warranty conditions on these products.

Popular wing photo features Castle Hohenzollern

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing
Public Affairs Office

Where is the castle 52nd Fighter Wing jets are pictured flying around?

It's the Hohenzollern castle, in the southwest corner of Germany. The castle is famous for its unique architecture. It sits atop a conical mountain among the Swabian Alps, located in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Burg Hohenzollern features a palace with towers and fortifications. Records show that in 1819, 23-year-old crown prince Friedrich Wilhelm of Prussia visited the then dilapidated seat of his ancestors and decided to reconstruct the castle.



U.S. Air Force photo

A 52nd Fighter Wing A-10 and three F-16s flying by Castle Hohenzollern in southwest Germany.

"The panoramic view from the Hohenzollern Castle is truly worth a long journey," said Wilhelm during a return visit in 1886.

However, the beautiful location and view from the

castle aren't the only reasons to visit. The castle interior features treasures, such as the oldest coat of arms from the Zollern dynasty and the crown of the Prussian Kings. Prince Louis Ferdinand of

Prussia also decorated the rooms and halls with priceless Prussian art.

Burg Hohenzollern is open year-round March 16 through Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Oct. 16 through March 15 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tours are available in the English and last about 50 minutes. Officials recommend registering parties of 40 people or more at least eight days in advance.

To get to the castle, drive towards Stuttgart and then turn onto Autobahn 8 towards Singen. Exit on Haigerloch and follow signs to Hechingen and Burg Hohenzollern. Call 07471-6812 for more information.

Wing members should keep crunching

Muscular fitness testing continues to maintain 'force strength'

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Muscular fitness testing will continue on a non-attributional basis, but remain part of the annual fitness assessment until further notice.

In July 2000, the Air Force began an expanded fitness assessment program, which added a goal-based muscular fitness test (push-ups and crunches) in addition to the pass/fail cardiovascular testing program (cycle ergometry).

"The current operational tempo is the main reason the Air Force hasn't instituted attributional testing," said Lt. Col. Fred Kelsey, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe Directorate of the Surgeon General. "This doesn't mean people can get out of shape, physical fitness is vital to maintain health and accomplish our mission."

Implementation of pass/fail standards for the muscular

fitness component of the fitness assessment will be re-evaluated periodically. However, prior to full implementation, sufficient notice and guidance will be provided. Cycle ergometry will continue to follow the guidelines as published in Air Force instruction 40-501.

While attributional testing has been delayed, physical fitness remains a readiness issue directly related to the Air Force's ability to meet its mission requirements.

Commanders, supervisors and members are encouraged to maintain their physical fitness level to allow them to optimally perform their duties said a message to the field from the Air Force Surgeon General's office at Bolling Air Force Base, Md.

Base fitness centers also offer resources including programs that encompass a "total fitness" program: strength training, aerobic exercise and flexibility training. Members needing assistance with developing a fitness program may contact their base health and wellness center. (USAFE News Service)



File photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

"Libby" 52nd Services Squadron fitness instructor, guides her aerobics class through a strength training session.

Spang softball players prove hard hitters in 6th Annual Ammo Bowl



Senior Airman Michael Leroux

Joe Pizzuti hits a triple to right center during the 6th annual Ammo Bowl softball tournament July 19-21 on the base fields. The hit placed the Spangdahlem team in second place for the tournament. More than 12 teams from five U.S. Armed Forces in Europe bases camped at the fields as they participated. Team Ramstein took first place and Lakenheath took third.

Col. John Medlin, 52nd Maintenance Group commander, tosses the first pitch of the tournament to catcher Maj. Geoffrey Bacon, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron commander.



Randy Bigbee

Eifel Sports World

Paintball

The paintball fields open for play each Sunday. Call 01607-186450 for details.

Recreational trips

Outdoor recreation sponsors the following trips. Call 452-7176 or visit the shop in Spangdahlem Air Base building 146, near the Mosel Hall Dining Facility.

■Luxembourg rafting, hiking and camping trip, Aug. 3-4. Cost is \$50 for adults, \$30 for children ages 6-12. Special family price is \$140 for two adults and two children.

■Teen Kyll River kayaking, Aug. 6. Cost is \$20.

■Western horseback riding lessons, Aug. 8 or 22. Cost is \$35. Minimum age is 6.

■Paris bike tour, Aug. 9-11. Cost is \$175. Minimum age is 14.

Football camp

The Bitburg Barons sponsors the 4th annual Central European football camp Aug. 14-16. The camp is open to all high school athletes. Last year, 264 athletes and 32 coaches throughout Europe participated.

Camp starts at 8 a.m. Aug. 14. Sessions are provided for quarterbacks, running backs, receivers, and linemen. Three three-hour sessions take place Aug. 14-15. All camp participants must have a completed physical by Aug. 14.

Camp officials also seek volunteers. For more information, call Coach Rik Carr at 06561-2020 or visit the high school gym Monday through Thursday from 5-7 p.m.

Youth sports news

Eifel Youth Sports are located in Spangdahlem Air Base building 427 and Bitburg Annex building 2013. Call 452-7545 or 452-9274 for more information.

■Parents should schedule youth sports physicals as soon as possible for the upcoming school year. Call 06565-958333,

Option 3, for more information.

■Flag football registration for youth ages 10-12 and 13-15 takes place now through Wednesday at the youth centers. Age cutoff is Oct. 15.

■Soccer registration for youth ages 5-15 takes place now through Wednesday at the youth centers. Cost is \$25.

Aerobics schedule

The following aerobic classes take place in the Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center. Dates and times are subject to change. Pick up an aerobics schedule at the base fitness center or call 452-6496 for details.

Monday and Wednesday

Abs, 6 a.m.

Legs and butt, 6:30 a.m.

Five for two, 11:30 a.m.

Kickboxing, 5:30 p.m.

Monday only

Spinning, 6:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Funk, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Step, 11:30 p.m.

Legs, arms and butt, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday only

Step tone, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Kickboxing, 6 a.m.

Step, 11:30 a.m.

Abs, 5:30 p.m.

Legs and butt, 6 p.m.

Friday

Spinning, 6:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Saturday

Step, 9 a.m.

Tae Kwon Do

Register for Tae Kwon Do classes in the Bitburg Annex building 84. Call 452-9508 for details.